# CLAIMS

1. A method of modulating cellular activity in a mammal said method comprising a administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the activity of one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said component is sphingosine kinase.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said component is sphingosine-1-phosphate.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said component is sphingosine kinase and sphingosine-1-phosphate.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein said adhesion molecule expression is endothelial molecule expression.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said modulation is a decrease in endothelial molecule expression.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1-7 wherein said agent is HDL.

9. A method of modulating cellular activity in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway or functional equivalent thereof.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said component is sphingosine kinase.

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein said component is sphingosine-1-phosphate.

12. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said adhesion molecule expression is endothelial cell adhesion molecule expression.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said modulation is a decrease in endothelial molecule expression.

15. A method of treatment or prophylaxis of a disease condition involving inflammatory mechanisms said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient modulate the activity of one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway wherein said modulation results in modulation of adhesion molecule expression.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease condition is coronary heart disease.

17. A method according to claim 15 or 16 wherein said component is sphingosine kinase.

18. A method according to claim 15 or 16 wherein said component is sphingosine-1-phosphate.

19. A method according to claim 15 or 16 wherein said component is sphingosine kinase and sphingosine-1-phosphate.

20. A method according to any one of claims 15-19 wherein said adhesion molecule expression is endothelial molecule expression.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein said modulation is a decrease in adhesion molecule expression.

22. A method according to any one of claims 15-21 wherein said agent is HDL.

23. A method of treatment or prophylaxis of a disease condition involving inflammatory mechanisms in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway or functional equivalent thereof.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said disease condition is coronary heart disease.

25. A method according to claim 23 or 24 wherein said adhesion molecule expression is endothelial molecule expression.

26. A method according to claim 25 wherein said modulation is a decrease in adhesion molecule expression.

27. Use of an agent capable of modulating the activity of one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of cellular activity in a mammal.

28. Use according to claim 27 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

29. Use of one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway or functional equivalent thereof in a manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of cellular activity in a mammal.

30. Use according to claim 29 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

31. Agents for use in modulating one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway wherein modulating said components modulates cellular activity in a mammal.

32. The agent according to claim 31 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

33. A composition comprising one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway or functional equivalent thereof for use in modulating cellular activity.

34. The composition according to claim 33 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

35. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent capable of modulating one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway wherein said modulation results in modulation of cellular activity together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

36. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more components of a sphingosine kinase signalling pathway or functional equivalent thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

37. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34 or 35 wherein said cellular activity is adhesion molecule expression.

38. A method of detecting an analyte structurally or functionally reactive with a lipid, said method comprising the steps of contacting either:

    (i) said analyte which analyte is radio labelled; or

    (ii) said analyte and a reporter molecule which reporter molecule is radio labelled, said analyte being contacted simultaneously with or separately to said reporter molecule;

    with said lipid in the presence of a scintillant for a time and under conditions sufficient for a lipid-radio label complex to form and to excite said scintillant, and detecting said excited scintillant.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein said lipid and said scintillant are coupled to a solid support.

40. A method according to claim 38 or 39 wherein said lipid is sphingosine.

41. A method for detecting an analyte exhibiting sphingosine kinase activity, said method comprising the steps of contacting said analyte and $^{33}$P-ATP with sphingosine in the presence of a scintillant, said analyte being contacted with said sphingosine simultaneously with or separately to said $^{33}$P-ATP, for a time and under conditions sufficient for $^{33}$P-sphingosine complex to form and to excite said scintillant, and detecting said excited scintillant.

42. A method according to claim 41 wherein said sphingosine and said scintillant are coupled to a solid support.

43. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 26 wherein said mammal is a human.